

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method in a data processing system having a program, the method comprising the steps of:

5 obtaining information describing a datatype to be registered, the datatype having a metadata that describes a data and a reference to the data, the data being maintained separately from the datatype, the information describing the datatype including a class field that is common to other datatypes and an instance field that is specific to the datatype; and

10 storing the information describing the datatype in a registry, at least a portion of the information describing the datatype being included in the datatype's metadata.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
validating the datatype.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a key that enables the datatype to be joined with the other datatypes having the key in their respective metadata.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes an identifier of the  
datatype.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a description of the  
datatype.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a version  
information about the datatype.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a priority of the  
datatype.

30 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a database identifier  
for a database that stores the information.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a storage server  
identifier for identifying a storage server where the data is maintained.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a message topic associated with the datatype.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a relevance of lifetime of the datatype.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a status of the datatype.

10 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a description of the data.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes an intrinsic value of  
15 the datatype.

15. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a program in a data processing medium to perform a method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information describing a datatype to be registered, the datatype having a  
20 metadata that describes a data and a reference to the data, the data being maintained separately from the datatype, the information describing the datatype including a class field that is common to other datatypes and an instance field that is specific to the datatype; and

storing the information describing the datatype in a registry, at least a portion of the information describing the datatype being included in the datatype's metadata.

25 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising the step of: validating the datatype.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes  
30 a key that enables the datatype to be joined with the other datatypes having the key in their respective metadata.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes an identifier of the datatype.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a description of the datatype.

5 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a version information about the datatype.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a priority of the datatype.

10 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a database identifier for a database that stores the information.

15 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a storage server identifier for identifying a storage server where the data is maintained.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a message topic associated with the datatype.

20 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a relevance of lifetime of the datatype.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a status of the datatype.

25 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes a description of the data.

30 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the information includes an intrinsic value of the datatype.

29. A data processing system comprising:  
a memory having a program that obtains information describing a datatype to be registered, the datatype having a metadata that describes a data and a reference to the data,

the data being maintained separately from the datatype, the information describing the datatype including a class field that is common to other datatypes and an instance field that is specific to the datatype, and stores the information describing the datatype in a registry, at least a portion of the information describing the datatype being included in the datatype's

5 metadata; and

a processing unit that runs the program.

30. A data processing system comprising:

means for obtaining information describing a datatype to be registered, the datatype  
10 having a metadata that describes a data and a reference to the data, the data being maintained separately from the datatype, the information describing the datatype including a class field that is common to other datatypes and an instance field that is specific to the datatype; and

means for storing the information describing the datatype in a registry, at least a portion of the information describing the datatype being included in the datatype's metadata.

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